

**Local Arts Service Organizations:****1) Arts Etobicoke: (43 years in operation)**

Established in 1973, the organization's current mission is to provide community leadership and spearhead partnerships for sustainable cultural growth and development for the diverse groups in west Toronto, including groups from various racial, cultural, linguistic, age and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Some key ongoing programs include:

- a. *Beats and Intentions* – 3<sup>rd</sup> year; a unique, innovative multidisciplinary arts training, mentoring, and career development/employment program for emerging youth artists from Regent Park, Kingston Galloway/Orton Park, Malvern and Jamestown.
- b. *EDGE: Youth Art Show*: 18<sup>th</sup> year student art show – free 7-day exhibition of drawings, mixed media, paintings, printmaking, sculpture and photography to provide an opportunity for secondary school students and youth (14-18 years) in Toronto to showcase their art work in a public venue.
- c. *From 3 to 3* – 9<sup>th</sup> year literacy program for children ages 3 to grade 3 in collaboration with the University of Toronto Centre for Community Partnership and TDSB.
- d. *AMPLIFY* – 5<sup>th</sup> year, multimedia arts workshops for homeless youth in North Etobicoke in partnership with Youth Without Shelter designed to build youth self-esteem and life & job skills in homeless youth aged 16-24 through music, sculpture, graphic zine making, dance and videography.
- e. *QMAP* (Queer Media Arts Program) – 3<sup>rd</sup> year youth-led initiative funded by the Rotary Club. Designed to provide safe space in Rexdale for LGBTQ2S youth in collaboration with Rex Pride, LOVE: Leave Out Violence and the Micro Skills Pro Tech Media Centre. This 12-month program engages participants in expressive arts/design programming that builds self-esteem, develops life and job skills, and supports and addresses the needs and concerns of LGBTQ2S youth. A second issue of Rex Pride Magazine, a compilation of artwork, resources and stories created by and for LGBTQ2S youth will be produced this year.
- f. *After School Art Drop-In Program* – 7<sup>th</sup> year, Saturday free arts education programming offered in the storefront gallery. This year children and youth will participate in Myseum Toronto creating artwork and stories about Etobicoke that will be displayed on 38 feet of wall space at Neilson Park Creative Centre.

New programs:

- a) *KidCast* in collaboration with Expect Theatre: a dramatic podcast project that will engage 270 elementary students from Jane and Finch, Jamestown, Kingston Orton/Galloway Park and Weston-Pellan Park to learn to write, direct, act and record dramatic podcasts (digital radio plays). This free initiative introduces youth, many who are new to Canada, to an innovative means of expression and communication.

- b) *Green Ambassadors for Rexdale* in partnership with Rexdale Community Health Centre – public art project for seniors that includes educational outings to gardens, conservation areas, recycling depots and more to learn what we can do to help the environment. Older adults will play the role of mentors in improving the health of the community.

**2) Lakeshore Arts: (23 years in operation)**

Established in 1993, its current mission is to improve the availability of arts, cultural and heritage activities within our neighbourhood. Lakeshore Arts encourages people of all ages and backgrounds to participate in the arts as a way to enrich their lives and strengthen their community.

Some key ongoing programs include:

- a) *Through the Eyes of An Artist* – 23<sup>rd</sup> and final year annual juried art show featuring works in various media by established and emerging artists, in partnership with the Assembly Hall.
- b) *SHAZAAM!* – 10<sup>th</sup> year literacy, art and media, workshop for grades 7-11 at Second Street JMS in partnership with the Assembly Hall and Humber College Institute.
- c) *Youth Arts Movement (YAM)* – 11<sup>th</sup> year program for youth aged 13-19 interested in developing and participating in community arts programming. Youth meet weekly to make art, share new ideas and organize art events in the community, including workshops on various artforms and exhibitions.
- d) *ARTiculate* free youth *Leadership in the Arts Program* – 7<sup>th</sup> year summer program for youth (ages 13-17) features workshops with professional artists, field trips to arts destinations, leadership training, skills to develop and deliver programming to local children at local libraries.
- e) *LakeShorts International Short Film Festival* (6<sup>th</sup> annual) – grassroots arts festival that fosters the arts community in south Etobicoke while showcasing the passion and spirit of independent film. Produced in collaboration with the Fifth Ground Entertainment Inc and is supported by a broad range of sponsors.

New programs:

- a) *Porch View Dances* – a multi-generational project that celebrates the stories of a neighbourhood and engages ‘real people’ in real time in real spaces. Neighbours from selected households will receive training by the Kaeje d'Dance company’s choreographers and perform on their porches and front lawns.
- b) *Grey Matters – a Senior Think Tank* - an advisory group will be formed to help define the kind of programming seniors are looking for, how we might work together to create and deliver these new initiatives.

**New Arts Etobicoke/Lakeshore Arts Collaboration** – a spin off from the 2015 Cultural Hotspot signature project *Dancing in the Third Act*. In collaboration with Kaeje d'Dance and Montgomery's Inn, *Animating Historic Places*, a community-involved dance project for seniors that reflects the lives of people in urban neighbourhoods, will culminate in three nights of performance in multiple rooms at Montgomery's Inn for fall 2016.

### 3) Scarborough Arts (38 years in operation)

Founded in 1978 and incorporated in 1979, Scarborough Arts' current mission is to develop, deliver and promote arts programming and cultural initiatives in collaboration and partnership with the community.

Some key ongoing programs include:

- a) Annual juried art show – 16<sup>th</sup> year all media art show to feature both emerging and established artists.
- b) *Kaleidoscope – Intercultural Arts Afterschool Program*, 5<sup>th</sup> year. Funded by Ontario Trillium Fund and in response to work conducted as part of Creative Mosaics Needs and Capacity-Building Assessment, this multiyear program provides artist-mentored activities in five schools including digital storytelling, mural art, music, performing arts and creative movement/dance. Community members, particularly emerging artists and local seniors will be involved in community arts activities and gain artistic skills and experience.
- c) *EAST* urban music and project management project, 4<sup>th</sup> year – youth aged 16 to 24 from of Dorset Park, Steeles-L'Amoreaux, Kingston-Galloway and Scarborough Village learn about music production and project management through workshops, recording sessions and showcase events.

#### New Programs

- a) *EAST: Animating Democracy*: youth aged 16-24 will learn the skill of photography and film making, with a focus on a political or social justice subject area that is pertinent to them. They will develop film, photo, story and journalistic skills. Their work will be presented to the general public at the end of the program
- b) *EAST: Neighbourhood Games* – a mentorship program for local community groups, collectives and small organizations. Participants will acquire knowledge and execute an event with the support and guidance from Scarborough Arts.
- c) *4<sup>th</sup> Annual Scarborough Worldwide Film Festival* – 10-day festival that presents film and new media works onscreen, alongside an exhibit by local artists, industry days (panels/workshops/seminars) on vital issues facing humanity. Scarborough Arts will facilitate events at multiple locations in Scarborough and East York.
- d) *Yearbook* exhibit in partnership with Myseum Toronto and Scarborough Archives: Accompanied by talks, opening reception and a specialty workshop on the art of collage making, this exhibit highlights both the history of Scarborough high schools and residents, and provided an in-depth look into the art of yearbooks and how digital age transformed the meaning of a yearbook.

### 4) UrbanArts Community Arts Council (28 years in operation)

Established in 1988, UrbanArts Community Arts Council mission is to enhance neighbourhoods by engaging youth in community development through the arts. Its mandate is to promote, engage and facilitate cultural and community development opportunities between artists, arts organizations and community members. Its current strategic directions are on high density communities with a focus on youth and youth arts.

Some key ongoing programs include:

- a) *After School Arts Program* – 15<sup>th</sup> year program for youth aged 11-17, now expanded to 29, to learn from professional artists in various art streams: visual arts, dance, drama/theatre, literary and music. Youth will also learn arts management skills, such as setting up an organizational infrastructure: develop their own annual dance showcase, perform choreography for younger dance crews and eventually operate its own studio.
- b) *Summer Arts* – 10<sup>th</sup> year multidisciplinary day camp program for children and youth aged 8-25 with an average daily attendance of 50 participants per day in the Weston-Mount Dennis area.
- c) *Beats.Mind.Movement* – 10<sup>th</sup> year program summer intensive free 2-month program for youth aged 16-24. This program focuses on beat production, songwriting and recording, and the "business" of music. The goal of each session is to complete an album or compile a CD and market it. This program is now packaged as a two 12-week session have been sold to the City of Mississauga and has become a revenue generation tool for the organization to sustain the program.
- d) *It's A Girl Thing! Young Women's Leadership Development* – 5<sup>th</sup> year leadership and mentoring activities to support middle and high school young women to address issues of self-esteem and awareness.
- e) *Young Men of Honour Leadership Development Program* – 5<sup>th</sup> year in high schools which uses the arts to engage 'at-risk' boys in local schools to address social issues, enhance literacy skills and character development.
- f) *Intergenerational Culinary Arts Program* – 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 16-week intergenerational cooking program for youth and seniors from the neighbourhood in partnership with the Weston Frontlines Centre.
- g) ProTech Media Centre - in all program streams, youth can translate their learning into employment, self-employment, or further studies at the post-secondary level in arts based careers: graphic design & animation; website design; film & photography; proficiency in Microsoft applications; numeracy & literacy skills development; life skills & employment readiness training; and developing leadership & mentorship skills.

New program:

- a) 2016 Cultural Hotspot signature project, *The Rustic Mosaic Project* – in partnership with the City of Toronto, 3M Canada and Gallery 44, UrbanArts, as project lead, will work with youth, residents and local agencies such as the Falstaff Community Centre to provide arts programming and activities that will promote and profile the neighbourhood. It is a visual arts program will provide 30 youth, 14-29 years from the area with skills in the development of leadership, positive self-image, photography and digital image manipulation. Selected youth will receive additional training in the installation of 3M Canada's new mural on vinyl techniques that will provide potential future employment opportunities for youth and some will have their work showcased through Gallery 44's annual juried show. The project will culminate in September 2016 with a mural unveiling and community celebration at the Falstaff Community Centre.

### **5) East End Arts (3 years in operation)**

As part of implementing Recommendation 2.3 of the *Creative Capital Gains*, East End Arts was formed at a feasibility consultation meeting in 2011. As an outcome of the meeting, a Working Group made up of a diverse volunteer group of local east end residents, community and cultural workers, artists and arts collectives was formed to collectively build a LASO in East York. In 2013, an Advisory Group for East End Arts was formed from the existing working group and other arts and community leaders. This group, which currently meets monthly, will become the basis for the Board of Directors when East End Arts is incorporated independently. Currently, it continues to be incubated by the Toronto Arts Foundation with the plan of setting it up as a non-profit, incorporated, charitable autonomous LASO in 2016/2017.

East End Arts has a Strategic Plan (2015-2017) that identifies four priorities: build organization capacity to effectively provide services; expand, enhance and diversify its network, raise the profile of arts in the east end, and establish East End Arts as an autonomous sustainable charitable organization.

In regards to programming, East End Arts will continue to facilitate the *East End Poetry Festival*, and participate in the *Art on the Danforth* festival. It will re-ignite the *East End Connects* networking events, an identified priority through community consultations, at various locations to connect artists and the community. It will also facilitate projects such as *East Side Story*, *inPrint Community Print Pop Up* and other activities to enhance accessibility to arts activities, develop partnerships and raise the profile of arts in the east end. New in 2016 and gearing up for the 2017 Cultural Hotspot in East York, it is one partner of the Arts Services' *Live Arts Mentor* program, whereby, working in collaboration with VIBE Arts and the East York Neighbourhood Initiative, it will help increase local engagement in the community surrounding the East York Community Centre, and culminate in the creation of a large, public community mural in 2017.

### **6. North York Arts (5 years in operation)**

As part of implementing Recommendation 2.3 of the *Creative Capital Gains*, this LASO was established in 2011 and is currently being incubated by the Toronto Arts Foundation with the plan of setting it up as a non-profit, incorporated, charitable autonomous LASO. It is currently governed by an advisory body of nine members. In December 2014, it launched its hub space at the Toronto Centre for the Arts with street level access. Its plan is to be an independent non-profit organization with charitable status in July 2016.

Since its inception, North York Arts has established its core values: community engagement, cultural diversity, accessibility and equity, leadership, communication and collaboration; and creativity and innovation. Its programming goals include: arts education, engaging diverse cultures and underserved communities; and cultural tourism.

Its current key programs include the Music Series and the Theatre Series at the *Toronto Centre for the Arts* that provide more on-going opportunities to showcase their work in a professional performing arts space. It facilitates signature and other events such as the *Sunday Serenades*, *Cultura Festival*, *Earl Bales Art and Music Festival*, the *Oakwood Village Arts Festival* and the *Inside Out Film Festival*, providing vibrant arts high quality arts programming in public spaces and venues. It also facilitates networking opportunities for artists and the community, for example: the *Intergenerational Programs, Forums, Workshops and Information sessions*, community focus groups in partnership with TAF, and many others. New this year, it will facilitate a Cultural Hotspot signature project in Lee-Lifeson Park, animating it with an environmental installation, youth dance showcase, community activation in partnership with Shadowlands Theatre, Jumblies Theatre, Puppermongers, and Clay Paper Theatre.

**LASO collaborations - *What's Your Story***

In partnership with the Ontario Publishers Organization, Arts Etobicoke, Scarborough Arts, East End Arts and North York Arts will produce a day-long literary event. Four writers will be commissioned to produce writing about each of the neighbourhoods, 16 writers in total; 2 writers from the “hood” and 2 writers from outside writing about the “hood.” The writers will read their work, produce and distribute a booklet of all the writings. There will be an open-mic for local writers. Publishers will be invited and writers will have an opportunity to network. The works will be posted on the website of the Open Book Foundation and the commissioned writers will have an opportunity to read at the International Festival of Authors.